

# The Mirror

OF

LITERATURE, AMUSEMENT, AND INSTRUCTION.

(PRICE TWOPENCE.)

No. 16.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1844.

[Vol. I. 1844.]



## Original Communications.

### BABLAKE HOSPITAL.

Few English cities have more remarkable circumstances connected with their early history than the ancient town of Coventry. To common readers it is perhaps most known by the singular story of Lady Godiva. That the tale of her riding naked through the city is most improbable no one can deny, but many incidents not more likely to have chanced we know to have been true; and though Dr Pegge and others regard the tradition as a mere fiction, numbers still believe all that is recorded of her ladyship and of Peeping Tom, and a procession in honour of the former has been periodically repeated down to the present times, and we do not know that it has yet been finally discontinued.

Hardly less remarkable was the incident which, if it did not originally establish, added to the importance and continues to sustain the charitable institution represented in the cut which appears in our present number.

"Bablake Hospital," says Briton, "founded for old men, in the year 1506, by Thomas Bond, who had been mayor of the city, No. 1212.]

was enlarged to accommodate a number of boys in 1560. The buildings bound three sides of a quadrangle, and were formerly occupied by the priests of the Trinity Guild. The rooms appropriated to the old men are on the north side of the area, and the enriched gable at the end of that range, with its corresponding bay window beneath, are shown in the engraving. The entrance gateway to the hospital connects one side of the area with the boys' apartments and schoolroom. In the distance, opposite the tower of Bablake, and to the left of St John's church, is seen the spire to the church of the Grey Friars' Monastery.

"Bond, the founder of the establishment, placed six poor men, a woman, and a priest in the hospital, the revenues of which were vested in the city after its suppression in the reign of Edward VI. It now receives eighteen old men and a nurse."

The incident to which we have adverted, and which largely increased its utility, was connected with the extension of Bond's plan, mentioned above to have occurred about the year 1560, and led to its giving education to a number of boys, who are clothed in blue. This is ascribed to the

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"justice and benevolence" of Thomas Wheatley, who was mayor of Coventry in 1556. He had sent persons in his service to Spain to purchase several barrels of "steel gads," who brought home, through some unaccountable mistake, a number of casks filled with cochineal and ingots of silver, which were offered for sale in the open market as the articles before mentioned, and bought as such. This worthy, who was an ironmonger and card-maker, used every possible exertion to discover the owner of the property which had thus strangely come into his possession, but to no purpose. Such being the case, since he could not return the amount to the party to whom it rightfully belonged, he resolved to devote it to charity. He accordingly provided for the education of a number of poor boys, and in doing this not only appropriated all he had gained through the strange accident just described, but added to it considerable sums from his own funds.

#### ON METALLO-CHROMES AND ANION DEPOSITS GENERALLY.

No. IV.

(Continued from page 416 of vol. 43.)

AFTER a long interval we return to our subject. On reaching the conductors, which are essential to the formation of a voltaic pair, we found that an efficient arrangement might be constructed of a slip of zinc, a slip of platinum, and a solution of diluted sulphuric acid; and the indication that such a combination gave us, of the existence of something more than mere chemical action in the exciting liquid, was the ignition of the fine connecting wire.

It remains now to point out the phenomena which are produced, when some chemical compound is made to form part of the circuit, in the place of the fine wire. If, for instance, a glass be filled with a solution of sulphate of copper, and two copper wires, one coming from the zinc, and the other from the platinum, be made to dip into this solution, the wire attached to the platinum will soon be seen to dissolve away, and that connected with the zinc will increase in size by the acquisition of new copper. However this experiment be varied, the same order of change will prevail. Now, it is thus rendered evident, that the certain something which is called into play by the above combination, and the presence of which was detected by its action on the fine wire, possesses also certain powers over chemical compounds, and that these powers are very definite in their character. When we come to investigate the changes that take place, both in the apparatus which generates the power, and in the solution where the

effects are allowed to be called into play, a very notable analogy is found to exist. But, before this need be further detailed, it will be necessary to describe more fully others of the class of instruments termed voltaic batteries, of which the combination hitherto mentioned is but the elementary type.

We have said that, in a voltaic pair, of zinc and platinum immersed in dilute sulphuric acid, the hydrogen is liberated at the platinum;—an equivalent of oxygen is, in like manner, determined to the zinc; but then in its nascent state it combines with the metal to form an oxide, or does not appear. From this it appears that the source of voltaic action must be eminently due to that body which furnishes these two gases, and that body is the water. But now comes the principle on which all exalted voltaic actions are based. As the resultant oxide is not soluble in water, but is soluble in sulphuric acid, a quantity of the latter is added to the water; and thus the oxide is removed, as fast as it is formed, and an accelerated renewal of the action, by the successive contact of fresh particles of water is thus encouraged.

The intensity of the action is represented by the affinity between zinc and oxygen, under such circumstances; and the perfection of an arrangement consists in the facilities which are given for allowing the utmost development of this action. There are metals having a still higher affinity for oxygen than zinc has, as, for instance, sodium and potassium. Could the nature of these metals allow of their being substituted for zinc, a proportionate increase would occur in the electro-motive force. As they will ignite of themselves when in contact with water, it is obviously impossible to employ them; but they may be used amalgamated, or rather in the form of amalgam, and then the very maximum of power is obtained. Thus much in reference to the metal at which oxygen is determined.

We have used platinum as the metal, at which hydrogen shall be liberated; and for this reason: platinum has no affinity for oxygen. If a metal having an affinity for oxygen were employed, it is manifest that the amount of the force would depend on the difference between the affinity here and that at the zinc plate; whereas with such a metal as platinum there is nothing to deduct from the general effect. Practically, it is often convenient to use copper in this place: it has objections, not on the score of the comparative affinities merely, but for other reasons, which will be apparent hereafter. Like as we desired to get rid of the oxide of zinc as fast as it was formed, so do we esteem it an advantage to provide every means within our power to facilitate the escape of the hy-

drogen. Mr Smee was the first philosopher who made any important improvements in this. He had seen, in common with other philosophers, that more hydrogen escapes from the edges and corners than elsewhere; and it occurred to him that if the metal were all edges and corners, much advantage would arise. This idea led to the construction of his "Chemico-mechanical battery," in which the chemical action is allowed its utmost freedom, by means of the mechanical arrangement of the surfaces. He prepares his plates by depositing on their surfaces the finely-divided powder of platinum, so that the whole presents a mass of minute, indeed microscopical points, from which the hydrogen comes off, as he has aptly described it, in floods. His mode of throwing down the platinum in powder will be understood better as we proceed.

A further accession is made to the electro-motive force by preventing the liberation of the hydrogen, and causing a chemical affinity to occur at the platinum, which may be added to that occurring at the zinc.

(To be continued.)



#### THE PILGRIM'S REMONSTRANCE.

(With an Illustration by Mrs Gent.)

Sorrow not thus for the dead, lady,  
Sorrow not thus for the dead;  
He is gone to his rest,  
To the home of the blest,  
To the Saviour who for him bled, lady,  
To the Saviour who for him bled.

Remember those happy days, lady,  
Remember those happy days,  
When ye laugh'd and ye sang,  
And the echoes rang,  
As ye rival'd the wild birds' lays, lady,  
As ye rival'd the wild birds' lays.

Ay, remember! but not to repine, lady,  
Remember, but not to repine,  
For tho' heav'n gave  
An early grave,  
Heav'n's bounty made him thine, lady,  
Heav'n's bounty made him thine.

He might have died lonely and old, lady,  
He might have died lonely and old;  
And desolate age  
Is a mournful page,  
And hath sorrows that cannot be told, lady,  
And hath sorrows that cannot be told.

Thy lot hath with mercy been cast, lady,  
Thy lot hath with mercy been cast;  
In health to caress,  
In sickness to bless,  
And to watch by his couch to the last, lady,  
And to watch by his couch to the last.

Then mourn not thus for the dead, lady,  
Mourn not thus for the dead,  
But bow to the rod,  
Of a chastening God,  
And by faith to the Cross be led, lady,  
And by faith to the Cross be led.

S. S. GENT.

#### IMPROMPTU UPON READING THE 'MIRROR' ARTICLE ON THE RAILROAD FROM PARIS TO STRASBURG.

*Les chemins de fer* it is better to plan,  
Than destroy the fair visage of nature and  
men;  
Yet even in peace they a type of war yield,  
As they will undoubtedly cut through the  
field.

L. M. S.

#### THE PARRICIDE.

THE following, very singular adventure is related as a fact; it is said to have happened in one of the provinces of France, half a century ago. It appeared in 'La Nouvelle Bibliothèque de Société,' related in a letter to a friend.

"The adventure which I am going to relate to you, my dear friend, is of so strange and dreadful a nature, that you are the only person to whom I must ever disclose the secret.

"The nuptials of Mademoiselle de Vildac were celebrated yesterday, at which, as a neighbour, custom and good manners required my attendance. You are acquainted with M. de Vildac; he has a countenance which never pleased me; his eyes have often a wild and suspicious glare, a something which has always given me disagreeable sensations for which I could no way account. I could not help observing yesterday that in the midst of joy and revelry he partook not of pleasure; far from being penetrated with the happiness of his new son and daughter, the delight of others seemed to him a secret torment.

"The feast was held at his ancient castle; and, when the hour of rest arrived, I was conducted to a chamber immediately under the Old Tower at the north end. I had just fallen into my first sleep, when I was awa-

kened by a heavy kind of noise overhead. I listened, and heard distinctly the footsteps of some one slowly descending, and dragging chains that clanked upon the stairs. The noise approached, my chamber door was opened, the clanking of the chains redoubled, and he who bore them went towards the chimney. There were a few embers half extinguished; these he scraped together, and said in a sepulchral voice, 'Alas! how long it is since I have seen a fire!' I seized my sword, looked between my curtains, and saw by the glimmer of the embers a withered old man, half naked, with a bald head and a white beard. He put his trembling hands to the wood, which began to blaze, and soon afterwards turned towards the door by which he entered, fixed his eyes with horror upon the floor, as if he beheld something most dreadful, and exclaimed with agony, 'God! God!'

"My emotion caused my curtains to make a noise, and he turned affrighted. 'Who is there?' said he. 'Is there any one in that bed?'—'Yes,' I replied; 'and who are you?'—He answered, 'I am the most miserable of men. This perhaps is more than I ought to say; but it is so long, so many years, since I have seen or spoken to a human being, that I cannot resist. Come towards the fire; listen to my sorrows, and for a moment soften my sufferings!'

"My fear gave place to pity; I sat down by him. My condescension moved him; he took my hand, bathed it with his tears, and said, 'Generous man! let me desire you first to satisfy my curiosity. Tell me why you lodge in this chamber, where no man has lodged before for so many years; and what mean the rejoicings I have heard?'

"When I had informed him of the marriage of Vildac's daughter, he lifted up his hands to heaven—'Has Vildac a daughter? and is she married? Almighty God, grant she may be happy! grant she may never know guilt!' He paused for a moment: 'Learn who I am,' said he. 'You see, you speak to—the father of Vildac—the cruel Vildac! Yet what right have I to complain? Should I—should I call man or tiger cruel?'—'What!' exclaimed I with astonishment, 'is Vildac your son? Vildac! the monster! Does he shut you from the sight of man, and load you with chains?'

"Behold," said he, 'the power, the detestable power of riches! The hard and pitiless heart of my unhappy son is impenetrable to every tender sentiment; insensible to love and friendship, he is also deaf to the cries of nature; and, to enjoy my lands, has hung these eating irons on me.'

"He went one day to visit a neighbouring young nobleman who had lately lost

his father; him he saw encircled by his vassals, and occupied in receiving their homage and their rents; the sight made a shocking impression upon the imagination of Vildac, which had long been haunted with a strong desire to enjoy his future patrimony. I observed at his return a degree of thoughtfulness and gloom about him that was unusual. Five days afterwards I was seized during the night, carried off naked by three men masked, and lodged in this tower. I know not by what means Vildac spread the report of my death; but I guessed by the tolling of the bells and funeral dirges, more solemn than for inferior persons, they were performed for my interment. The idea was horrid; and I entreated most earnestly to be permitted to speak, but for a moment, to my son, but in vain; those who brought me my food no doubt supposed me a criminal, condemned to perish in prison. It is twenty years since I was first confined here. I perceived this morning that my door was not secured, and I waited till night to profit by the accident; yet I do not wish to escape; but the liberty of a few yards more is much to a prisoner.'

"No," cried I, 'you shall quit that dishonourable habitation, Heaven has destined me to be your deliverer, defender, support, and guide. Everybody sleeps; now is the time; let us begone.'

"It must not be!" said he after a moment's silence. 'Solitude has changed my ideas, and my principles. Happiness is but opinion. Now that I am inured to suffer, why should I fly from my fate? What is there for me to wish for in this world? The die is thrown, and this tower must be my tomb!'

"Surely you dream!" answered I. 'Let us not lose time; the night is advanced. Come.'

"I am affected," replied he; 'but cannot profit by your kindness. Liberty has no charms for my small remains of life. Shall I dishonour my son; or which way has his daughter given me offence, to whom I was never known, by whom I was never seen? The sweet innocent sleeps happily in the arms of her husband, and shall I overwhelm her with infamy? Yet might I but behold her! might I but lock her in these feeble arms, and bedew her bosom with my tears!—'Tis in vain! I cannot be! I never must look upon her! Adieu! Day begins to break, and we shall be surprised. I will return to my prison.'

"No," said I, stopping him; 'I will not suffer that. Slavery has enfeebled your soul; I must inspire you with courage. Let us be gone; we will afterwards examine whether it be proper to make the matter public. My house, my friends, my fortune, are at your service. No one shall know who you are; and, since it is neces-

sary, Vildac's crime shall be concealed. What do you fear?"

"Nothing! I am all gratitude. But, oh no! it cannot be! here I must remain!"

"Well, act as you please; but if you refuse to fly with me, I will go immediately to the governor of the province, tell him who you are, and return armed with his authority to wrest you from the barbarity of an inhuman child."

"Beware what you do! abuse not my confidence. Leave me to perish. You know me not. I am a monster! Day and the blessed sun would sicken at my sight. Infamous I am, and covered with guilt—guilt most horrible! Turn your eyes upon that wall; behold these boards, sprinkled with blood, a father's blood;—murdered by his son; by me!—Ha! look! behold! do you not see him! he stretches forth his bleeding arms! he begs for pity! the vital stream flows out! he falls! he groans! O, horror! madness! despair!"

"The miserable wretch fell convulsed with terror to the floor; and when fear and passion in part subsided, he durst not turn his guilty eyes towards me, where I stood transfixed with horror. As soon as he had the power, he approached the door:—'Farewell,' said he, 'be innocent, if you would be happy! The wretch who so lately moved your pity is now become detestable to you as well as to himself; he goes unlamented to the dungeon, whence alive he never shall return!'"

"I had neither the power to speak nor move. The castle was become a place most abominable; and I departed in the morning. Now, my friend, is it possible that humanity can produce wickedness so intolerable and unnatural?"

## ENGLISH LIFE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

### CHAPTER V.—BIRTHDAY ODES. (Continued from page 217.)

Two or three verses of the most fulsome adulation and abominable flattery which it is possible to conceive, formed what was called an 'Ode for his Majesty's Birthday,' written by the poet laureate, and set to tune by the doctor of music who catered for the court. On Colley Cibber and William Whitehead in succession did his fulsome task devolve, and each performed his duty to the very letter; each fawned and flattered, comparing the reigning monarch to the most noble heroes the world ever saw, and doubting whether any of the emperors of ancient Rome could possibly have equalled him: lauding his "courage," which had never been proved or even tried, and praising the "extensive learning," of which they could only presume him to be the possessor. "Cæsar," "Augustus," and "Britannia's lord,"

were the appellations most frequently conferred on the king; and Cibber, in one of his odes, even went so far as to denominate him "Lord supreme o'er all the earth." But the following "recitative" of the Ode for the king's birthday in 1756, written by Cibber, and set to music by Doctor Boyce, may be taken as a pretty fair sample of the general run of birthday odes:—

"When Cæsar's natal day  
Demands our annual lay,  
What empire of the earth explored  
Can hope to raise  
A pyramid of praise  
Superior to Britannia's lord?"

And here is the "air" of another of Cibber's odes:—

"In Rome, when fam'd Augustus lived,  
Had then the lyrist of his praise  
To this more *godlike* reign survived,  
What glories now had graced his lays!"

These extravagant and sickening effusions could produce no beneficial effects. So far from enhancing the monarch in the respect of his people, they tended, by their ludicrous and absurd flattery, to bring royalty itself into ridicule; they were degrading to the sovereign by the adulation which was showered upon him, and they at the same time degraded the poet who submitted to a perversion of his talents to such base purposes.

George II has been spoken of as deficient in taste. But the very speech quoted in support of that opinion, bearing in mind the nonsense annually, and more than annually, poured into his ears by his laureates, many will think tends to prove the contrary, when he exclaimed in his imperfect English, "D—n the bainters and the boots too!"

The grand jury of one of the West India islands, a few years ago, actually presented the governor as a nuisance! Had the Middlesex jury done as much for Colley Cibber and some of his tuneful brethren of the court, their presentment would have been justifiable. The evil was gradually abated. Pye did not deal so largely in heroics as some of his predecessors. His ode for the king's birthday in 1789, composed immediately after the recovery of George III from that indisposition which threatened the nation with the regency which twenty years afterwards became necessary, was most exulting, but we had nothing about Cæsar in it. That he over-rated the public sympathy from the estimate now formed of that monarch, many will think more than probable, when the poet thus delivered himself:—

"In the royal sufferer's smart  
Each beholder bore a part;  
Rumour gave th' afflicting tale,  
In sighings to the passing gale,  
That bosoms, never wont to sigh,  
Were clogg'd with speechless agony."



When royal bosoms teem with woe,  
When royal eyes with tears o'erflow,  
Can the private heart refrain  
Mingling in the mighty pain?

Contagious grief, in that affecting hour  
How wide, how gen'ral was thy power?  
Sad was each gesture, ev'ry step was slow,  
Silent each tongue, and ev'ry look was woe;  
The supplicating eye presum'd alone  
To beg compassion at the heavenly throne."

It is to our late poet laureate, the lamented Doctor Southey, that the merit belongs of discontinuing a system of such gross flattery; but while I give him credit for this act of independence, I may be pardoned for adding, that by thus abandoning the practice of writing birthday odes, he rendered his office a perfect sinecure. The duty of annually writing two adulatory odes, one for each new year, and the other on the king's birthday, was always sufficiently light; but Doctor Southey dispensed with even this slight task, and the title and salary (the amount is variously stated) was all that remained of the office of poet laureate. For what possible purpose such an officer has been retained in the royal establishment, I know not; or if retained, why some duty is not assigned to him. It may be urged, that the sinecure is a delicate mode of bestowing charity on indigent poets: in the name of heaven, do not let them starve! make them pensioners on the royal bounty; allow them annuities from the privy purse (it is long enough); but why profess to pay them for services which they are never called upon to perform? why deceive the world into a belief that the laureateship is a *bond fide* office, having duties as well as emoluments? It can hardly be pretended that there is no public duty for an eminent literary man to perform; the history of our country, since the deaths of Hume and Rapin, has been unrecorded; no authentic chronicle of events from the date to which their histories extended now exists; and the present century will appear, in some respects, a blank in the book of our authorized records, which future generations will be unable to fill up. Why, then, is not the almost obsolete office of poet laureate abolished, and the salary conferred on a national historian, who should record the principal events as they occur, and while all the facts connected with them are capable of being exactly ascertained?

But I am wandering from the subject which suggested in the train of ideas with which it is associated these scarcely pertinent remarks: a consideration of the frivolities of the birthday odes has betrayed me into observations on the duties of their authors, and finally, into a proposal for entirely abolishing the office of poet laureate, and substituting in its place a

really useful and requisite public officer. It is now time to return.

The birthday odes were performed on the anniversary of his birth before the king by his band of vocalists, and were regularly reported in the newspapers of the following day. After going the round of the periodical press of the country, they were consigned to the oblivion for which they were only fitted, and the laureate's absurdities of "Cæsar's gentle sway," and "England's god-like king," were forgotten by the few who had waded, half dreaming, through their sickening length before the page which contained them was fairly passed.

ALEXANDER ANDREWS.

### HISTORY OF THE TROUT;

HABITS, VARIETIES, MODE OF TAKING, AND THE ART OF BREEDING THEM.

AS ADOPTED BY G. BOCCIUS, ESQ.

(Continued from page 221.)

THERE are some foolish and astringent laws respecting the innocent amusement of fishing; one passed in the fifth of George the Third, of which this is an extract:—

"No one shall enter into any park or paddock fenced in and inclosed, or into any garden, orchard, or yard, adjoining or belonging to any dwelling-house, or in or through which park, or paddock, garden, orchard, or yard, any river or stream of water shall run or be, or wherein shall be any river, stream, pond, pool, moat, stew, or other water; and by any ways, means, or device whatsoever, shall steal, take, kill or destroy any fish bred, kept or preserved in any such river, or stream, pond, pool, moat, stew, or other water aforesaid, without the consent of the owner or owners thereof, or shall be aiding or assisting in the stealing, taking, killing, or destroying any such fish as aforesaid, or shall receive or buy such fish, knowing the same to be stolen or taken as aforesaid, and being thereof indicted within six calendar months next after such offence or offences shall have been committed, before any judge or justice of gaol delivery for the county wherein such park or paddock, garden, orchard, or yard, shall be, and shall on such indictment be, by verdict, or by his and their own confession or confessions, convicted of any such offence or offences as aforesaid, the person or persons so convicted shall be transported for seven years."

There is another clause, which states that should a person be taken while fishing in the above manner, "*not being in a park, paddock, garden, orchard, or yard, adjoining or belonging to any dwelling-house, but shall be in any other inclosed ground which shall be private property,*" the

penalty to be five pounds, or six months' imprisonment.

In the 22nd of Elizabeth, an act, not yet repealed, states, "no servant shall be questioned for killing a trespasser within his master's liberty, who will not yield, if not done out of former malice; yet if the trespasser kills any such servant it is murder."

The catching of fish with nets, trimers, or snares at night, in canals, subjects the parties to heavy fines, and they are liable to transportation.

The other acts regarding the taking of trout were passed—1st Elizabeth, cap. 21; 24th Anne, cap. 2; 30th Geo. II, cap. 21.

In 1841 a Treatise was written by Mr Boccus upon Fish Ponds, published by Mr John Van Voorst, Paternoster row, in order to point out their value, when properly arranged and stocked, showing a remunerating return and an abundant accession of wholesome food to be produced with little trouble.

Mr Boccus states he has, for many years, made himself acquainted with the habits of most fresh-water fish; induced by motives of mere curiosity in the first instance, but subsequently from a disposition to examine more closely the works of nature, which, if looked at with only moderate attention, will show how simple and beautiful she is in all her doings.

From a wish to awaken a spirit of useful investigation in others, we take up the pen in order to show how easy it is to rear, foster, and protect, millions of any description of fish.

For this purpose we will begin by pointing out how to stock rivers and streams in one season to any extent, according to Mr Boccus.

Not having the advantage of salmon in our noble river Thames, since so much filth has been poured into it from London, or any of the tributary streams, we must commence with trout, the habits of which are similar, with the exception only of emigration, peculiar to the former.

Mr Boccus states he has already produced many thousands of trout in the Colne river, on his preservation system.

Trout begin to be heavy in spawn in the month of October, the smaller or younger ones first, but it is very rare they "hill," as it is termed, or are ready to deposit their eggs, until the month of November; the larger or older ones are later, and it is not unfrequent to find these, in a cold season, spawn as late as February. It is extremely interesting to watch the movements and caution of trout, when about to deposit their spawn; a number of them commence burrowing the gravel with their noses, and form a bed with their tails, and, upon depositing the egg, cover them up with the gravel, frequently throwing up a

hill as they proceed, to the height of one or two feet, so as to leave but a shallow depth of water to flow over it. At this period, if any object appears within sight, they leave the hill, and as quickly return when all appears to be safe. For the purpose of burrowing and heaping the gravel, nature at this period makes provision for the male fish, who is head labourer, by elongating and hardening the lower jaw, as is the case with a salmon at the spawning season. When on the hills it is not unfrequent for two or more males to wait upon a female, for, among fishes, as among almost all nature's works, more males than females are produced.

It is worthy of remark, that each female fish has her favourite, and always leaves the hill in his company.

Trout, like all the salmon tribe, make for the heads of rivers or tributary streams to spawn, where the springs bear an even temperature, and where the water is not likely to be affected by flood or thickened for any length of time, for instinct, or animal reason, warns them of the danger arising from the thickened state of the water, which proves completely fatal to the embryo; for after animation, muddy waters are destructive to the egg, caused by the fine earthy, mixed with animal matter, depositing itself on the neck of the same (or that part which had adhered to the membrane of the ovarium in the fish), which prevents the progress of animation and addles the egg. Therefore, the want of fish of every description in our rivers and streams does not proceed from either traffic or poaching, but from the pouring into our rivers the sewerage, refuse of chemical works, factories, &c., which destroys the egg. Yet still this refuse, when not composed of chemical matter, is of the greatest importance for the sustenance of living fish, as the myriads of larvæ and insects, produced by the decomposition of animal and vegetable matter in water, affords the young fry, by their abundance, an easier access to food. Great complaints have been made against fishermen for taking fish in the fence months, but so few are taken, comparatively speaking, to the quantities which each river or stream ought or might be made to afford by the improved system, that the offence is not worthy of notice. The rivers swarm with fish where the population is small; but as the population increases, so does the quantity of fish decrease, not from the quantity taken for food, but from the impurity of the waters injuring the egg: now this can be remedied, as it is much easier to produce fish for food than any animal in existence, as each fish yields hundreds, some thousands, and others hundreds of thousands of eggs, which, within a very short period, increase to a large size. The salmon, for instance, which has spawned in

October, leaves for the sea in April, and returns in October three to four pounds in weight, so that in seven months a splendid stock is produced. When trout "hill," as the fishermen term it, the female keeps working up the stream before the male, and presses against the gravelly surface, and is by that pressure relieved of the spawn or egg; the male following her does the like at the same time, and gives to the waters the soft roe or milt. The eggs deposited absorb a portion of the same, and become animated. Mr Boccius's mode of stocking rivers with trout or other fish is as follows:—The female and male fish are taken at a time when they are about depositing their roe, and by pressure they are relieved of the spawn in some convenient place near the stream, so made as to be constantly supplied with a running water; after about fifty to sixty days the fish leave the eggs; they are, after a few days, let into the stream to shift for themselves. The eggs being kept in a safe place, do not become a prey to other fish as food, and, strange to say, the trout itself watches its species leaving its imprisonment, and devours the small fry as they are produced, when, by keeping them for a few days, they are enabled to shift for themselves and collect together in the shallow waters out of harm's way. Mr Boccius prefers a long, shallow box made of wood, about three feet wide, ten feet long, and one foot deep, the bottom to be covered with a shingly gravel, so that the eggs may fall between the stones, and by that means prevented from washing away or rolling about; a stream of water must be let in at one end and allowed to pass out at the other. A wire gauze may be put over the entrance and exit of the stream, to prevent anything getting in, or the young fry escaping until they may be thought strong enough to get out of the way of their destroyers. A box of this description is large enough to breed 50,000 trout. The milt of the male trout must be pressed out into the water as soon as the eggs of the female are pressed from them into the box, and the stream should not be allowed to pass through until the water has been stirred, so as to mix the milt a little with the water.

Mr Boccius states that he is always successful; but supposing only half the eggs in a trout to produce fish by his plan, it will be found that one dozen females will give on an average 12,000 trout. The roes of fish vary in the number of eggs; for instance, Leuwen Hoeck found in a cod fish 9,344,000 eggs, and in a carp 211,629. The number of eggs vary in the trout; some of the species have 20,000 to 60,000 eggs in their roe.

There is a very learned work by Professor Agassiz, called 'L'Histoire Naturelle

des Poissons d'Eau douce de l'Europe Centrale.' Par Z. Agassiz. 'Embryologie des Salmones.' Par G. Vogt.

The learned professor has also bred fish in Germany on the same plan as adopted by Mr Boccius; and in his book the reader will find most valuable observations made during two winters on the embryo of the Paleé (*Coregonus palea*, Cuvier), a fish of the salmon family, habiting the Lake of Neufchatel, in Switzerland. The observations were made in the year 1839. He has described successively the development of the different organic systems. Embryologie, which, as a science, has only as yet been examined in the egg of the hen, and with that as only regarding certain organs; but in this work the comparative anatomy of each stage has been carefully examined. The following is a list of the contents:—The egg before fecundation—Fecundative conditions of the egg, with method of observation—Vitality of the egg—Development of the central nervous system—Ditto of the organs of sense, the eye, ear, and nose—Ditto of the carcass, in six divisions—Ditto of the skin and muscles and the intestines, in five divisions—Ditto of the systems of the blood, the heart, vessels, and circulation. The work is elaborately got up, containing one hundred and fifty subjects.

*Telegraph Printing.*—We direct attention to the simple, elegant, and efficacious application of electricity to telegraphs, recently patented by Mr Alexander Bain, and which is now in operation between the Nine Elms Station of the South-Western Railway and Wimbledon, a distance of six miles. The telegraph requires but one wire to be employed to form the connecting link between the two points; a saving not only of expense, but a security against disturbance or accident to the machinery. It appears, from the description given us by the inventor, that he converts the whole space of ground between the two points of communication (say in this instance Nine Elms and Wimbledon) into an electric battery. To use his own words, his telegraph is "worked by the electric currents of the earth." A hand moves round a dial, which the exhibitor stops at certain numbers. This is known at Wimbledon the next moment. The hand then moves apparently by itself and stops at precisely the same figures. Mr Bain might render his experiments more effective by arranging that one or two of his visitors should proceed to Wimbledon. This would prove that there is no intermediate agency, which at present, though we have no doubt of the fact, is less apparent than it might be.





**Arms.** Three Moors' heads, couped in profile, ppr., wreathed round the temple, arg. and az.

**Crest.** A demi lion, rampant, arg., charged with three trefoils, vert., holding in the dexter paw an arrow, pheoned and flighted, ppr., shaft, or.

**Supporters.** Dexter, a lion, ar., charged on the shoulder with three trefoils, slipped, vert., and holding in the sinister fore-paw an arrow, point downwards; sinister, a cormorant, holding in its beak a branch of laver, all ppr.

**Motto.** "*Ne cede malis, sed contra.*" "Yield not to misfortunes, but, on the contrary, meet them with firmness."

#### THE NOBLE HOUSE OF CANNING.

THOUGH new to the Peerage, the Cannings are an ancient English family. They have been of considerable note since the time of Henry VI. A series of George Cannings could be enumerated who were known to fame—

"In arms who triumphed or in arts excelled,"

from whom the Garvaghs are descended, before we reach that eminent man who threw a new lustre on the name, and having acted a distinguished part in the great council of the nation for more than a quarter of a century, was the cause of its being added to the peerage of England.

Of the family of the late Lady Canning Burke gives the following particulars :—

Major-General John Scott, of Balcomie, in the county of Fife, married Margaret, youngest daughter of Robert Dundas, of Arniston, Lord President of the Court of Session, by Henrietta Baillie, heiress of Lamintoun, and left at his decease

Henrietta, who inherited landed and other property to the amount of 300,000*l*. She married William, present Duke of Portland; Lucy married Francis, Lord Donne (now Earl of Moray); and Joan, who became Viscountess Canning. The last-named lady had married George Canning. He was the friend of Pitt, and held many important offices in the state, and at length, after the death of the late Marquis of Londonderry, became Prime Minister of England.

Few men have acted a more splendid part in parliament. His speeches were long listened to by "admiring senates." His sonorous voice, energetic manner,

classical taste, and brilliant wit, commanded the applause of all parties.

"And factions strove which should applaud him most."

As Prime Minister his career was short. The anxieties of office were supposed to have shortened his life. While in that high situation he died, August 8th, 1827. Shortly after his death his widow was elevated to the peerage as Viscountess Canning, of Kilbraham, in the county of Kilkenny. Her ladyship had issue

George Charles, who was born April 25th, 1801, and died March 31st, 1820; William Pitt, a captain in the Royal Navy, who was drowned while bathing at Madeira, in September 1828; Charles John, the present peer; and Harriet, married, in 1825, to Ulick John, Marquis of Clanricarde.

Lady Canning died March 15th, 1837, when the title came to her son Charles John. His lordship was born Dec. 14th, 1812, and married, Sept. 5th, 1835, the Hon. Charlotte Stuart, eldest daughter of Lord Stuart de Rothesay.

#### BLOOD FOR BLOOD.

CONRAD MANNERT, in his history of the Ancient Germans, gives a lively picture of the customs which prevailed among the Franks under the Merovingian Kings, in cases where homicide was to be revenged.

"At Tours dwelt two noble Franks who possessed extensive domains. Austregil, one of them, slew and plundered some of the *Pœri*, or armed attendants of the Sighar, the other. As the slain were not free-born Franks, but thralls, although ap-  
pertaining to that armed portion of the

household without whose escort no man of consequence undertook a journey, the affair was referred to the burgher tribunal, which decided that Austregil had incurred punishment. Sichar learning that the stolen goods were in his antagonist's house, collected a body of armed followers, attacked the mansion by night, slew Austregil, and plundered his property. The town was alarmed for the consequences, and the bishop, in conjunction with the judge, invited the parties to appear before them. They came, the assembled citizens being present. 'Prosecute this quarrel no farther,' said Bishop Gregory, 'be placable, and let him who has done the wrong make compensation; should his wealth prove insufficient, the church shall buy him off with her gold.' But Chramnisind, the nearest kinsman of Austregil, refused to accept any composition. It was soon reported that Sichar had been murdered upon a journey by his own attendants (he was merely wounded). Immediately Chramnisind and his party attacked Sichar's country residence, killed some of his servants, burnt his houses, and drove away his cattle. Both parties were again summoned before the *Gravio*, and the judges decreed that he who, rejecting a just composition, had burnt the houses, should forfeit one half of the composition previously adjudged to him, but that Sichar must still pay the other half. This was a proceeding devised as a means of restoring peace. The church paid the money; both parties respectively swore that neither would speak a word against the other, and so the dispute seemed to be ended. So thoroughly satisfied to all appearance were the parties, that they frequently feasted together and slept in the same bed (an old German custom). As they sat one day at Chramnisind's table, drinking together in mirthful mood, Sichar said, 'Thou shouldst thank me, good brother, for having killed thy kinsman, since the composition has made thee a rich man.' Then thought Chramnisind in his heart, 'If I leave my kinsman's blood unavenged, I am not worthy to be called a man.' He put out the lights, clove Sichar's head in twain, and hastening to the king, told how the thing had happened, and prayed for assurance of his life. He believed, therefore, that he had acted with perfect propriety, but was constrained to seek for safety in exile."

#### SEFI THE BLOOD-SHEDDER.

(Concluded from page 229.)

A TYRANT is always restless. Though the two friends, Tabub and Urgulu, were laid low, Sefi recollected that they had sons, and deemed it necessary to decide what their fate should be. He sent for them, and told them what their fathers'

offence had been, and vindicated the brutal atrocity which required it as a just and necessary step. Urgulu's son spoke lightly of the event:—"That death," he said, "but little affected him, since it seemed good to the Shah. He had ever held that his sovereign alone was entitled to reverence as a father." For this monstrous speech he found favour in the tyrant's eyes, and Sefi permitted him to succeed to the wealth of the parent he had lost. Not so the chancellor's son. He could not refrain from expressing horror, and for such a manifestation of filial sensibility his property was confiscated, and he was reduced to great poverty. A poet who had ventured to take this tragedy for a theme, threw out some reflections which gave offence to Sefi, who, in consequence, caused the imprudent votary of the Nine to be conveyed to the mardān, or market-place, where he was brutally deprived of his nose, ears, tongue, hands, and feet. In this deplorable state he languished for several days, when his sufferings terminated in death.

Notwithstanding the general professions of devotion, and the often-repeated declaration that they had no will but the Shah's, some of his chāns proved that they had a strong—indeed, an insurmountable—objection to be slaughtered, merely because such was his good pleasure. Alymerdan, the governor of Candahar, and Danub, the governor of Kentze, having failed to attend his court in person on one occasion, Sefi was as much incensed against them as he had been against Tabub. Aware of this, Alymerdan, when summoned, fled to the king of the Indies, and put into his hands the fortress of Candahar. The other chān, Danub, was in the same predicament. He, as well as Alymerdan, had sent one of his wives and one child to represent him in the Shah's presence, believing more would not be required; but understanding the dire resentment which he had unwittingly provoked, Danub decided on retiring into Turkey. Acting upon this prudent resolve, he performed a deed of ferocity not unworthy of the tyrant from whom he sought to escape. Having announced his intended flight to his servants and guards, finding fifteen of them unwilling to follow him in his retreat, he caused them instantly to be put to death. He then wrote a bitter and reproachful letter to his late master, and repaired to Constantinople, where he was received with much distinction by Sultan Ibrahim. The wives of the chāns who thus withdrew from his unreasoning vengeance were seized, and by order of the Shah sent to certain infamous receptacles, and there subjected to the most degrading insults. The sons were treated with great severity; and the fury of the tiger still raging, he

next commanded Immanculi Chan, the governor of Schiras, and brother of one of the self-exiled chans, to appear before him.

Immanculi was a man much honoured by the Persians, his wealth was great, and he was distinguished for princely liberality. The bridge at Ispahan had been built by his father, Alla Werds Chan, at his sole expense. In other respects he had deserved well of his country, and enjoyed a high reputation as a warrior. Though warned of the fate which probably awaited him, Immanculi did not refuse obedience to the mandate. It was his persuasion that his blameless life, and the various public services he had rendered, would save him from that vengeance by which friendship had truly whispered he was relentlessly pursued. Be this as it may, with loyal devotion which merited a very different return, "I would rather lay down my life," he declared, "than lose the favour of my sovereign. Unhappy I may be, but I will not, by rebellion, make myself criminal."

He came to Caswin, where the despot then held his court, and had no sooner presented himself before Sefi than the order was given to take off his head. The fierce command was promptly obeyed. His children, no fewer than fifteen in number, suffered the like punishment immediately afterwards. Their remains were exposed for several days in the market place, and the sympathising crowd beheld their frantic mother's anguish with manifestations of indignation and disgust, which for a moment made the guilty author of the tragedy tremble for his throne. He at length ordered them to be removed, and the broken-hearted mourner escaped from the dreadful scene with her only remaining child, and found an asylum in Arabia with her father.

Sefi drank to excess, and several of his atrocities were no doubt perpetrated under the influence of wine. But in many cases even this wretched apology for crime could not be urged in his behalf. He deliberately in some instances prepared himself for the shedding of blood by putting on a scarlet dress. When thus attired all shuddered for what was to follow.

He affected great love for the fair sex. If an insatiate desire to have all the beauty of the land at his command could deserve the name of love, in this he was sincere. The handsomest young females from every part of Persia were brought to him and placed in his seraglio. He could feel passion, but to manly affection his bosom was a stranger. The idol of his fond homage to-day, was likely to perish the victim of his abominable violence to-morrow,—one actually expired under his ferocious attack. The startled

and outraged victims of his power, compelled to dissemble, pretended to regard with devoted attachment the tyrant they could not but loathe. On a sudden his health rapidly forsook him, and as "suspicion ever haunts the guilty mind," he concluded that the cause was poison, administered by the incarcerated victims in his harem. His constitution was sufficiently strong to throw it off, and the first use he made of returning health was to institute inquiries which had for their object to discover the authors of his late sickness. He succeeded in obtaining what he deemed all-sufficient evidence. An attendant, who had given an offence to her mistress and been reproved or chastised, spoke to the pernicious ingredients which had afflicted him for nearly two months having been prepared in the women's apartments, and administered by the widow of Isa Chan. He had wronged that ill-fated beauty so deeply that he was ready to believe anything malice could urge to her prejudice, and Sefi, as he rarely lost an opportunity for provoking hatred, made it a rule of action never to forego revenge.

A night or two after he had gained the information a frightful scene was acted in the seraglio. By order of the Shah a vast pit was prepared in the garden. The beautiful condemned were then brought forward to the number of forty, including their female attendants, and, despite of their tears, and prayers, and protestations of innocence, were cast into it. Unmoved by their anguish and despair, Sefi ordered the earth to be thrown upon them, and they were buried alive. It was even said that his mother and aunt, who were reported to have died of the plague at that time, had shared the miserable fate of the inmates of the seraglio.

Impetuous and brutal in his nature, even his best moments were degraded by hateful violence. Successful at Ervan, his triumph was celebrated as a brilliant instance of his prowess as a general, but it reflected little credit on his prudence as a commander or his equanimity as a man. Exasperated by the resistance made by the besieged, he assumed the dress of a common soldier and determined on assaulting the walls in person. His mother, alarmed for his safety, entreated him not so to expose himself. To the affectionate appeal he deigned no reply in speech, but requited her with a violent box on the ear. Eventually the place was taken with immense loss of life. Bagdad was lost to the Turks.

Of the females which he claimed three were called his lawful wives. One was the daughter of a man who had been in early life a mule-driver. This humble person, on one occasion when the weather was extremely hot, had the good fortune to supply the Shah Abbas, when hunting,

with a most welcome draught of water. The incident led to his introduction to court in some menial capacity, and eventually he became the colonel of a regiment. The attractions of his daughter were great, and they caught the eye of Abbas, who, however, did not distinguish her by placing her in his seraglio, but made a present of her to his son's widow, with the intention of bringing her up to become the wife of Sefi, who, in accordance with the desire thus signified, married the mule-driver's daughter when he came to the throne.

His second wife was the daughter of a Georgian prince called Tamras Chan. She was a Christian. His third consort was a Circassian, and sister to Prince Massal. No fewer than three hundred females were inmates of his seraglio. Many were of singular beauty, presented by governors of provinces as the rarest treasure affectionate loyalty could offer; and some were offered to the tyrant by Persian nobles, who, by sacrificing a niece or other interesting relative, purchased favour, or where it was needed, pardon for past offences.

The career of this heartless man and cruel despot was, happily for humanity, not very long. He was called to his account in the twelfth year of his reign—in the year 1642. There were reasons for believing that poison had hastened his progress to the grave. His enormities had been so many, and he had so often assailed those nearest to him, that none could really love him or wish his life to be prolonged. He had one son, then eleven years of age, who succeeded to the throne which Sefi had so mournfully degraded by his frantic and heartless career.

#### LIFE OF HERR STAUDIGL.

AN interesting memoir of the admired vocalist Herr Staudigl appears in the last number of 'Fraser.' He once, it would seem, meant to become a physician.

"Behold," says the writer, "our renowned bass singer a student of medicine at Vienna. He seems to use phrases familiar to ourselves, to have gone through the prescribed course of lectures, and to have qualified himself for examination; but he was unable to procure the money—'convention money,' necessary to be paid to put himself in a condition to take his degree. This amounted to thirty florins; and his father's salary being only three hundred florins per annum, he was unable, at this critical period, to supply the wants of his son. In these unfortunate circumstances his chance of obtaining a *testimonium* was destroyed, because the payment of this money was an indispensable precursor of the examination which

could alone lead to it. The profession, therefore, of physician had glided from his grasp as already had that of civil engineer, not to speak of the asylum in the church from which he had turned aside. Here was an accumulation of broken hopes and blighted prospects; and, to crown all, the demand upon a man's energies and resources to provide the present means of existence. What was he to do? Why, betake himself to those heretofore slighted vocal powers and musical science; and this he did. The death of a bass singer called Weinmüller had made a vacancy in the Imperial Royal Court Chapel. Staudigl applied for it. He was admitted as a candidate in the trial, but was unsuccessful.

The voice was pronounced to be naturally splendid, but not sufficiently cultivated, and in the Report of the Examination he was placed below two persons named Borschützky and Riehling. The disappointment, in his straightened circumstances, was sad, and he next betook himself to the recently established Imperial Royal Court Opera. He solicited from Weinkopf, the leader of the chorus, a place in the chorus, and was accepted. The Count de Gallenberg was then manager of the Opera, and Staudigl entered into an engagement with him as a member of the chorus, and also, in our theatric phrase, to 'go on,' if required, for small parts. His salary was two hundred florins a year. This agreement bore date January 1, 1829. Duport, in August 1830, succeeded to the management, and Staudigl remained on the same terms, but under a more intelligent master. The clause about the small parts proved propitious to the poor chorus singer, on whom Duport already had his eye. On November 14th, in the same year, Staudigl, on presenting himself at the office of the theatre at eight o'clock in the morning, was asked by Demmer, the stage-manager, if he thought it were in his power to get up the part of Pietro, in 'Masaniello,' so as to play it that evening? Siebert, the possessor of the part, had declared himself hoarse, after an approved fashion amongst singers. Staudigl undertook the enterprise, and was ready. Siebert, however, appeared at his post, and claimed his character. He had it; but, as it happened, he was really hoarse. He sung himself still hoarser, and two nights after, when the piece had again to be played, he was so unequivocally hoarse that it was physically impossible for him to appear. Staudigl 'went on;' his success was triumphant, and thenceforth he ceased to be a mere chorus-singer; he was one of the regular company. The manager, too, volunteered to give him a small increase of salary, which, however, was to rise yearly. Duport at the same time appreciating his visible talent and future pro-

mise, did more for him. In Gottank, Demmer, and above all, Cicimara, he gave him excellent masters. Under these he studied, and Dupont's judicious patronage was still further extended in never bringing him out in a part wherein he was not well prepared. Of this Staudigl entertains a most grateful recollection. In 1833, Mayerbeer's opera of 'Robert the Devil' was produced at Vienna. The part of Bertram was confided to Staudigl, and so triumphant was his success, that the flutterings of genius which had been exercised upon the confines of so many professions subsided, and Staudigl stooped, with a firm rest, upon the stage. The attraction of this opera, mainly through him, was very great. A large augmentation was at once made to his salary, on an engagement for six years, extending to the end of 1839. The establishment of an Italian Opera in Vienna, for the three months of April, May, and June, left him free to travel during this space of time in each year, and of this he availed himself. First, however, we should state that the Imperial Royal Court Chapel remembered the rejected candidate of 1823, and in 1836 he was, by a decree of the Court, appointed to that institution for life. Availing himself of his liberty for the months we have indicated, in 1836 he performed, with great success, at Munich and Carlsruhe; in 1837, in Hamburg and Prague; in 1838, at Gratz and Brunn; in 1839, at Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Wisbaden, Mainz, Darmstadt, and Manheim; and in 1840, after having previously displayed his powers at Nuremberg and Manheim, he joined the German Operatic Company at London."

#### PLAY LICENSING; OR, COURT FOLLY.

If a sinecure be objectionable, a bad office is still worse. Why the stage should require a censor more than the press we do not know. The Examiner of Plays was never necessary, was always odious, and each succeeding licenser seems to have been ambitious of proving himself more absurd than his predecessor. When George Colman obtained the berth his great talents could not save him from the common lot, and he stood before the world a known profligate acting the part of a rigid puritan; warring on the dramatic writers of the day to purchase absolution for his former sins against morality. Charles Kemble was said to have been more intolerant than the author of 'Broad Grins'; and we suppose the gentleman to whom the office descended from him, thinks it necessary to be as obnoxious as possible that he may not be said to take a good salary or fees for nothing.

A play, entitled 'Richelieu in Love; or, the Youth of Charles I,' has lately been printed. It was accepted by a manager, but has been prohibited by the *sic volo sic jubeo* of the Lord Chamberlain. The subject was good and it was ably treated. In a preface the author gives the following just and pungent comment on the foolery of which he is at present the victim:—

"The 'Examiner of Plays' is in truth the sentinel of a powder magazine; as such the lurid language of the passions, their lightning revelations terrify him out of his senses, while other men merely admire the splendour and beauty of the celestial flames. With him despair raves blasphemy, love murmurs licentiousness, Cato talks treason, Tiberius brings government into contempt, Sejanus is an allusion to the minister of the day, the Gracchi mean to raise a tumult against the corn laws. A mark for all the aimless shafts of satire can he find, when all men else imagine them showered at random. Who knows? Might not the pit imagine it beheld not the picture but the mirror of a court? Might it not whisper to its wife that although set in an antique frame all courts are faithfully reflected in the one before their gaze,—the envy, hatred, treason, ingratitude, and intrigue which haunt them? 'Look to that, Master Brooke;' let no future dramatist be deterred by the fate of him who hath been thus generously gibbeted by way of example to all, except to shun his errors. Let him write a play without plot, character, or language appropriate, and he may write it as finely as he thinks proper and receive an eulogy along with his permit. Thus shall he avoid Charybdis. It is true that the town has seldom the good taste and deference to be delighted with what pleases the authorities, and thus he rushes on Scylla. But Charybdis never regorges her prey, whereas Scylla sends it roaring up half a dozen times before she sucks it down for ever! It is too late for the author to take his own advice: he is hardened like steel in the fire he has been cast into. But let not the reader misunderstand him so far as to imagine he complains of any peculiar hardship in his case. If Shakspeare himself had not flourished before 'Examiners' were invented, the author is constrained to admit that he could not have flourished after. Under the system in action he acknowledges that a great dramatist is as impossible as an eagle soaring in all his pride and sublimity in a zoological cage. Who can complain of being placed under a despotism from which, if that superhuman genius now existed, he would not be exempt? Yes, if Shakspeare himself, if the man whose unbounded genius mirrors the universe, who has fathomed all the depths of the human heart, given all its



passions an echo distinct as their own voices, made the language of England imperishable, were she herself, her power and her glory passed away like a cloud on the rack of the winds—if this man, or rather this demigod, were now in being, would he not be placed under the absolute control of an 'Examiner of Plays?' The imagination faints in the descent. Who then shall complain when he recollects that the transcendent flame which the Almighty only once breathed into humanity would have run just the same risk of being puffed out as his own poor farthing twinkle! For which of Shakspeare's masterpieces deem you, reader, would have escaped the blasting mildew of the licenser's red ink? Is it 'Hamlet,' with his guilty kings, his grand scepticism, his melancholy musings which lay bare the aching heart of humanity and strip it alike of its rage and tinsel? Would not this phrase alone, 'the insolence of office,' condemn it? Is it 'Macbeth'—'Macbeth' that teaches lessons of usurpation and murder, and may be meant to frighten the Queen from going near Tamworth? Is it 'Richard III' or 'King John'? Can any one doubt that Shakspeare meant, by delineating those flagitious sovereigns, to bring royalty into hatred, let alone contempt? Is it meet the people should learn in 'Othello' what a 'cogging knave' can do at the elbow of a nature too noble to understand him? 'Coriolanus'?—let us see—ahem! There seems to be a great deal of violent language in it, frenzied invective, scorn and hatred and contempt of the—well, well, only of the common people to be sure! It must then be prohibited to spare the feelings of the shilling gallery? Or if they have not sufficient influence at court to obtain that favour, there is still another good reason. In 'Coriolanus' aristocracy and democracy are represented at war; and in all well-regulated commonwealths, especially in England, they have always agreed like—like man and wife. The people must not learn such turbulent matters—'prohibited.' Shall the 'Merry Wives' pass, merry though they be to tears of laughter? If we do license it you must at least expunge that gross old sensual satyr, that Falstaff! else will he bring the whole order of knighthood into contempt, he with his huge paunch and vulgar wit, which 'splits the sides of the groundlings.' 'Twelfth Night' may perhaps, with some thousand improvements, pass muster. But no; it violates decorum! In it a woman, to preserve her honour, puts on the attire of a 'skirted page'—an attire differing but little from that worn by our ladies a few years ago when short petticoats were in vogue. The same objection is fatal to Portia, to Rosalind, and to Imogen: above

all to the latter, for she is the daughter of a British king! What matters it that, thus disguised, these characters have always been considered the sweetest, the chastest, the most feminine of Shakspeare's characters? People of nice ideas know better."

#### THE FORSAKEN BEAUTY.

There dwelt a lovely lady  
Beside the Northern Sea,  
Of stately form and feature,  
And born of high degree.  
Among the host of lovers  
That were ever in her train,  
Was one whose heart grew bitter  
Because he wooed in vain;  
And though her voice was gentle,  
And her words were kind and gay,  
Yet he vowed a cruel vengeance  
From the hour she said him nay.

He muttered spells of darkness,  
He called the powers of ill;  
In secret and in silence  
They wrought his wicked will.  
Her pure young heart soon yielded  
To the might of magic spell,  
And he mocked her in his triumph  
When he saw she loved him well.  
"Proud heart," he said, "that scorn'd me,  
Thy love is nought to me,  
The heartless scorn thou gavest  
I give again to thee!"

He left her in her anguish—  
He left his native land,  
And she watch'd the parting vessel  
As she paced the lonely strand;  
It sped across the waters  
Like a sea-bird free and light,  
Its snowy wings grew fainter,  
Then faded from her sight.  
They sought that high-born lady  
At eve along the shore,  
Her lips were wan and silent,  
Her dreary life was o'er!

They laid her by the waters,  
In a fair and costly tomb,  
While the cruel one passed onward  
All heedless of her doom.  
"Her heart may break!" he muttered;  
"She shall rue her early pride;  
In the merry world there beateth  
Full many a heart beside;  
In the merry world there shineth  
Full many a face as fair;  
Farewell, once scornful lady,  
I leave thee to despair!"

They laid her by the waters,  
But her spirit could not rest;  
And she tracked her faithless lover  
Across the sea's dark breast.  
To him, where'er he wandered,  
Invisibly she clung,  
And spells of hidden power  
About his steps she flung.  
From land to land she led him,  
Where gold and beauty shone,  
But his soul was dark within him,  
And the charm of life was gone.

From land to land she led him,  
Till he saw how poor and vain  
To one with sin o'erladen  
Were pride, and mirth, and gain.  
From land to land she led him,  
Till his heart grew weak and mild;  
And his haughty soul was humbled  
To the meekness of a child.—  
Till tears of shame and sorrow  
He wept by night and day;  
Then homeward o'er the waters  
Once more he bent his way.

He neared the land, beholding  
The costly tomb that bore  
The corpse of her whose spirit  
Had led him to the shore.  
"The tomb of the Fornaken!"  
He knew it must be here,—  
Her love, her faith, her sorrow,  
He owned them conquerors.  
"Oh! that thy soul might bless me—"  
He murmured, kneeling there,  
"Might see my deep repentance,  
And hear my hopeless prayer!"

For one brief moment round him  
A radiant light was shed,  
And beside him, in her beauty,  
Stood the shadow of the dead!  
It passed,—he bow'd in silence,  
For he knew the blessed sign  
Was a promise of forgiveness  
Revealed by love divine:  
He bow'd him down in silence,  
For he knew his hour was nigh,  
And ere the daylight faded  
He breathed his last calm sigh!  
*Fraser's Magazine.*

### Miscellaneous.

**SHERIDAN THE ACTOR.**—The following anecdote appeared in the English newspapers about the year 1768:—Last year Mr Sheridan, the actor, obtained an Irish act of parliament protecting him from arrests on account of his debts in Dublin, amounting to sixteen hundred pounds; and having this season saved eight hundred pounds, he gave notice that he was ready to pay his creditors ten shillings in the pound, and desired them to call on him for that purpose, with an account of their respective demands. Mr Faulkner, the printer of one of the Dublin papers, was one of his creditors. This gentleman told Mr Sheridan that he would not trouble him with his demand till he dined with him: Mr Sheridan accordingly called at Mr Faulkner's, and after dinner Mr Faulkner put a sealed paper into his hand, which he told him contained his demand, at the same time requesting Mr Sheridan to examine it at his leisure at home; when he came home he found, under seal, a bond of his for two hundred pounds, due to Mr Faulkner, cancelled, together with a receipt in full of a book debt to the extent of one hundred pounds.

**MAN NEVER SATISFIED.**—Lord Melcombe,

in the last century, speaking of a negotiation on which he had entered with the Duke of Newcastle for court preferment, in relation to an offer which had been made to him, wrote:—"The duke must think 2,000*l.* a year would not make my fortune with one foot in the grave; that, as to rank, I have as much respect for the poeprage as any man; but that in my situation, without succession or collateral, a poeprage to me was not worth the expense of new painting my coach." He, however, added, though he had one foot in the grave, he was determined to make some sort of figure in life:—"I earnestly wish it may be under your grace's protection; but, if that cannot be, I must make some figure. What it will be I cannot determine yet: I must look about me a little, and consult my friends; but some figure I am resolved to make."

**ANECDOTE OF FREDERICK THE GREAT.**—The 'Amsterdam Gazette,' of Feb. 13, 1784, mentions the following fact:—"A soldier of Silesia, convicted of stealing certain offerings to the Virgin Mary, was doomed to death as a sacrilegious robber. He denied the theft, saying that the Virgin, from pity, had presented him with the offerings. The affair was brought before the king, who asked the Popish divines whether, according to their religion, the miracle was impossible? They replied that the case was extraordinary, but not impossible. 'Then,' said the king, 'the culprit cannot be put to death because he denies the theft, and because the divines of his religion allow the present not to be impossible; but we strictly forbid him, under pain of death, to receive any present henceforward from the Virgin Mary, or any saint whatever.'"

### The Cathartic.

**Death of the Bishop of Tarbes.**—Pierre Michel Marie Double, after a long episcopal career, died on the 1st inst. at the age of 77.

**Church Architecture.**—The style, which is characterized by its lofty vaults and arches, its pillars, that have the appearance of being formed out of bundles of reeds, its profusion of ornament, its flowers and leaves, is in all these respects essentially distinguished from the older Christian architecture, the first and best model of which is to be found in the church of St Sophia at Constantinople.

**A Pugilist of the Old School.**—Broughton the boxer, called, in reference to his size, the Great, attended the Duke of Cumberland, in one of his military expeditions on the continent, where, on being shown a foreign regiment of a terrific appearance, the duke asked him if he thought he could beat any of them that composed it; upon

which Broughton replied, "Yes, please your Royal Highness, the whole corps, with a breakfast between every battle."

*Simplifying Laws an Act of Tyranny.*—Montesquieu says the multiplicity of our laws is the price we pay for our liberty; and remarks, from the examples of Caesar and Oliver Cromwell, that simplifying the law is generally one of the first acts of a tyrant. In what a glorious ignorance of such tyranny do the people of England rejoice!

*William the Conqueror's Laws.*—The Conqueror gave England a code of laws consisting of seventy-one articles. They were written in German-French, and opened thus:—"Ce sont les leis et les custumes que li reis William grantut à tut le peuple de Engleterre, après le conquest de la terre; iceles meismes que li reis Edward, sun cosin tint devant lui. Co est à savoir: pais à saint yglise; de quel forfait que home ont fait en ces tens, et il pout venir à saint yglise, ont pais de vie et de membre."

*The 'Courier de Londres et de Paris.'*—This new French journal has the advantage of being edited by one who knows England as well as France. It is admirably printed, and its utility to foreigners who are unacquainted with our language, promises to make it the 'Galigani' of England.

*The Evil Sight.*—Upon new buildings or children the Turks imagine the looks of Christians bring ill luck; and so to attract what they call the evil sight, upon arches or houses they suspend a ball or some fantastic thing to fix the attention of those who pass, in order that the eyes may not be fixed too long on the building.

*How to catch a Unicorn.*—In the 'Speculum Naturale' of Vincent de Beauvais, the unicorn is placed in the list of the animal kingdom. Great value was attached to it and it was exceedingly difficult to take. To effect this it was absolutely necessary that a young virgin should be employed, because she was regarded as the emblem of purity.

*Portrait of the Virgin.*—Among the paintings of the Greek Church was one which represented the Holy Mary as exceedingly hard featured. It was presumed to be the portrait painted by St Luke, or at least such a one as he would have painted, and according to the tradition the Virgin was fifty years old when her likeness was taken by the Evangelist, who was a painter by profession, as well as a physician.

*A New Freak of Despotism.*—Letters from Egypt announce that the Pasha has suddenly fallen in love with antiques, and has given a positive order that no more shall be removed out of the country; and so strictly is this enforced that one of the

little blue images, so commonly met with, has been stopped. If this law be strictly enforced, it will increase the price of those already in the English market.

*Wives bought.*—In some of the German states wives were formerly bought and sold; by one law against adultery, he who seduced the wife of a freeman was bound to buy him another.

*Mr Horn.*—This well-known vocalist has commenced a series of lectures at the Polytechnic, on the music of all nations. He has given some curious specimens of old English melodies with animated illustrations, which prove his powers have suffered no diminution since he trod the boards of Drury. At the same Institution a most astonishing scientific novelty has been added to its varieties. The face of a living man, enormously magnified, is shown on the sheet which has heretofore presented insects and inanimate objects. The giant looks and smiles on the visitors, puts on spectacles, smokes a cigar, and exhibits a reality as strange and startling as any pantomimic monstrosity that ever delighted Christmas revelers.

*Sagacity of a Cow.*—The late Sir Herbert Taylor, at Fan Grove, near Chertsey, in Surrey, had a cow which was in the constant habit of turning the handle of a turnip slicer, when the hopper had any turnips in it. The cow would then feed on the turnips which had dropped out. When these were consumed, she would turn the handle again.

*Don Augustin Arguelles.*—This incorruptible patriot lately died at Madrid. Multitudes accompanied his remains in solemn procession to the tomb. It was a tribute to the memory of a man whose name had never been sullied with intrigues for place, power, or wealth. As guardian to the royal children, during the regency of Espartero he was, entitled to above 14,000*l.* a year. Of this he would only accept the tenth part, and at his death just twenty-two dollars were found in his house, and old claims on the government for 7,000 dollars.

—"Ministers without virtue," says M. Necker, "are more to be feared than sovereigns indifferent to public good: newly come out of the crowd, they know better than the monarch the selfish use that they can make of all the passions and vices; and, as they are connected with society, as they have a continual relation with the different orders of the state, their corruptions are propagated, and their dangerous influence spreads to a great distance."

LONDON: Published by JOHN MORTIMER, Adelaide Street, Trafalgar Square; and sold by all Booksellers and Newsmen.

Printed by REYNELL and WRIGHT, Little Pulteney street, and at the Royal Polytechnic Institution.